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REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10 to 12, 16, 18 and 21 to 26 remain in the application. New claims 27 to 32 have been added to define further patentable aspects of the present invention.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10 to 12, 16, 18 and 21 to 26 in view of amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 to 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson (U.S. Patent no. 5,074,894) in view of Hirai (U.S. Patent no. 5,015,442). Reconsideration is requested in view of the amended claims.

Applicant's invention of claim 1 has been amended to clarify that an outlet end of the decontamination device is formed to flare outwardly such that it operates as a diffuser. As such, air passing through the decontamination device is slowed by the diffuser, which may thereby increase the dwell time of the air in the decontamination device. Neither Nelson nor Hirai teach or suggest such a decontamination device. As such claim 1 is believed to patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claim 21 has been amended to clarify that the decontamination device of the air purifier includes a baffle positioned over the inlet of the decontamination device to act on an air flow passing through the decontamination device. Again neither Nelson nor Hirai teach or suggest such a decontamination device. As such claim 21 is also believed to patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Since neither Nelson nor Hirai, alone or in combination, teach the elements of claims 1 and 21 these claims and their dependent claims are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited prior references. For this reason, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 USC 103(a) based on Nelson and Hirai. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.